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Book Calendar

by DICK LOCHTE

Today

San Diego. A poetry workshop convenes at Writers' Bookstore & Haven, 3341 Adams Ave., (619) 282-3363, $5, noon-2 p.m.

Lysander's Books. Butler Shaffer signs his "Calculated Chaos: Institutional Threats to Peace and Human Survival," 412 N. Larchmont Blvd., noon-3 p.m.

Pasadena. A meeting of the Freelance Network of writers is held at 1345 Leonard Ave. Call Michael Utvich, (213) 655-4476, 1 p.m.

Laguna Beach. Tippi Hedren and Theodore Taylor sign copies of their "Cats of Shambala" at Fahrenheit 451 Books, 509 S. Coast Highway, (714) 494-5151, 2-4 p.m.

LAX Marriott. SuSu Levy chairs a seminar based on her book "Recipes for Optimal Living," 5855 W. Century Blvd., $25 (includes a copy of the book), 2-5 p.m.

Southern California Manuscript Society. Photojournalist Leigh Wiener discusses "collecting photographs as fine art" at 2600 Carmen Crest Drive, Los Angeles, (213) 283-1936, 2-5 p.m.

Galaxy Theatre. "Poetry Meets Prose," with Tom Nolan ("Mr. Los Angeles") and Richard Meltzer representing the latter and Dick Barnes, Amy Gerstler, Suzanne Lummis and John Thomas with Philomene representing the former, 5421 Santa Monica Blvd., $4, 3 p.m.

International Black Artists and Writers. A poetic tribute to the late Julian (Cannonball) Adderley at 7611 S. San Pedro, (213) 292-3265, $5, 4-6 p.m.

George Sand Books. Dan Fante reads from his late father John Fante's first novel, "The Road to Los Angeles" (Black Sparrow. $10) and Joyce Fante discusses her husband and his books, 9011 Melrose Ave., (213) 858-1648, free to public, 4:30 p.m.

Annex Bookstore. Edmund White signs copies of his "Caracole" and reads from his work, 8270 Santa Monica Blvd., (213) 650-2903, 5-7 p.m.

A Different Light. Patrick Mulcahey's play, "I Wish I Had Never Met You and I Was Meeting You Now" is read, 4014 Santa Monica Blvd., (213) 668-0629, 9 p.m.

Monday

KCRW-FM. Guy de Maupassant's "Useless Beauty" is read by Claire Bloom, 89.9 FM, 3 p.m.

Tuesday

KCRW-FM. "Faces, Mirrors, Masks: 20th-Century Latin-American Fiction," a 13-part series exploring the works of such writers as Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Miguel Angel Asturias, 89.9 FM, 3:30 p.m.

UCLA. Robert Windeler begins a step-by-step course in writing cookbooks, 2268 Franz Hall, (213) 825-9415, $175, 7-10 p.m.

Pasadena. Bayla Winters chairs a nine-week writing workshop for UCLA Extension, at the Scott United Methodist Church at the corner of Rosemont, (818) 846-1879, 7-10 p.m.

La Cienega Park. Barry Kemp ("Newhart"), Ken Estin ("Cheers") and Bob Ellison ("Mr. Sunshine") discuss television writing at a meeting of the Independent Writers Organization of Southern California, 8400 Gregory Way, (213) 849-7549, $10, 7:30 p.m.

Los Angeles Photography Center. Fat Tuesday, an annual literary journal, holds its third poetry reading, with its founder-editor F. M. Cotolo and poets Mary Lee Gowland, Lynn McGee, Ben Blenkle and Mark Cramer, 412 S. Parkview, (213) 931-7664, 8-10 p.m.

The Cloisters. Cherilyn Cummings, Andrew Ragan and Becky Shipp read their work at 2827 S. Hoover St., (213) 748-3528, 8 p.m.

Thursday

Downey. Marilyn Jensen chairs a four-Thursday course in fiction and nonfiction that utilizes personal experience for Cerritos College Community Services, Furman Park, (213) 860-2451, 7-10 p.m.

Friday

Fullerton. The Friends of the Fullerton Library host a used-book sale at the library's auditorium, 353 W. Commonwealth Ave., 1-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m.

Hollywood Holiday Inn. The Los Angeles Chapter of the Women's National Book Assn. celebrates its 10th anniversary with Rona Jaffe ("After the Reunion") and Warren Farrell ("Why Men Are the Way They Are") as guest speakers and with a special tribute to its founder Lee K. Levy. Reservations from Sol H. Marshall, (818) 988-2334, 6:30 p.m.

Laguna Beach. Jeff Mozer ("Love Dust," "Dawn Fish") reads at the Laguna Poets meeting at the Laguna Public Library, 363 Glenneyre, 8 p.m.

Beyond Baroque Center. Thaisa Frank reads her fiction at 681 Venice Blvd., Venice, (213) 822-3006, $5, 8 p.m.

Saturday

La Mirada. The Friends of the La Mirada Library host a book sale on the patio of the library, 13800 La Mirada Blvd., 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Walnut. Elizabeth Upton ("Secrets of a Nun") chairs a seminar on writing naturally and successfully, at Mt. San Antonio College, (714) 594-5611, Ext. 220, 9 a.m.-noon.

Woodland Hills. The Friends of the Woodland Hills Library host a used-book sale in the library's staff parking lot, 22200 Ventura Blvd., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Pacific Palisades. The Pacific Palisades Library Assn. sponsors its annual Book Fair in the library parking lot, 861 Alma Real Drive, noon-4 p.m.

A Change of Hobbit. An autograph party for Ursula K. Le Guin ("Always Coming Home") takes place at 1853 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica, (213) 473-2873, 1-3 p.m.

Send notices for Book Calendar, including poetry, to Alex Raksin, Book Review, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles 90053 no later than 10 days before issue date.

Now in Paperback

Deadly Gambits, Strobe Talbott (Vintage). Despite an elegant and dispassionate writing style cultivated during 14 years of reporting for Time magazine, Strobe Talbott, like President Reagan or Mikhail Gorbachev, relies in part on personal conviction to help guide him through the numbers, acronyms and accusations that superpowers trade during the arms talks. "Nuclear weapons," he writes, "exist to be talked about, not to be used. Largely for that reason, it is another central and again, paradoxical part of their nature that they exist to be controlled." Talbott's outlook sets him apart from the President, who, Talbott writes, has caused "the most serious and protracted breakdown" in arms control talks since nuclear negotiations began in 1958. Unlike Reagan or Gorbachev, Talbott has examined the issue from points of view both Eastern and Western: Talbott, currently Washington bureau chief for Time, translated and edited two volumes of Khrushchev's memoirs. Consequently, this 1984 book, updated to include talks under Gorbachev, explores the arms race with global, rather than national, interests in mind.

Between Man and Man; The Prophetic Faith, Martin Buber (Macmillan). Martin Buber's work was born, in part, out of Soren Kierkegaard's concern that individual identity is being eroded in "the present age." "First of all," wrote Kierkegaard, "come great dreams, then a feeling of laziness, and finally a witty or clever excuse for remaining in bed." But, while many readers believe that isolation is essential to Kierkegaard's vision of cultivating self, Buber stresses the importance of a meaningful exchange between one being and another. "Between Man and Man" expands on this view, positing that relations between man and God are not abstract, but inspired and direct. "The Prophetic Faith," in turn, looks at the relationship between Jews and their God, as expressed in Old Testament literature.

AP NEWS LIBRARY

Spires of Form: Glimpses of Evolution, Victor B. Scheffer (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich). The title is borrowed from Emerson, who wrote that the worm, "striving to be man, mounts through all the spires of form." Victor Scheffer's training as a zoologist, of course, prevents him from concluding that animals are aware of their destiny. "For, every wild animal," he writes, "the momentary problems of living are met with momentary solutions." But this book is still more poetic than it is scientific. Scheffer's heart reaches out for all creatures as they struggle to survive—from tiny Himalayan spiders found atop Everest to mysterious organisms swimming nearly seven miles beneath the sea. Case studies in the book remind us of our common bonds with these creatures: Human infants, for example, have sometimes been born with flesh-and-bone tails up to two inches long. This common bond, Scheffer hopes, will help us understand that while "nature needs thousands or millions of years to create a species, man needs only a few dozen years to destroy one."

Men & Friendship, Stuart Miller (Gateway). When Stuart Miller told male colleagues that he was planning to write this book, they reacted almost unanimously, "Male friendship. You mean you're going to write about homosexuality?" No. Drawing from interviews with hundreds of men, Miller discovers a genuine problem—men's inability to sustain close relationships with other men—and some possible causes: fear of intimacy, hatred of homosexuality and competition in society. —ALEX RAKSIN

And Our Critics Commend

In Country, Bobbie Ann Mason (Harper & Row). Sam, a 17-year-old girl from Hopewell, Ky., "searches the trivia of everyday life for images of the past it ignores." Moved in part by the death of her father in Vietnam, Sam listens to old Beatles' records and takes a special pride and joy in her secondhand Volkswagen. "Mason convinces us . . . every bit of the popular culture we live in is poisoned by the ghosts it denies; and that by remembering them, we let in sanity and health" (Richard Eder).

John Ruskin: The Early Years 1819-1859, Tim Hilton (Yale University). "Ruskin will need no other biography in our time." Hilton succeeds in depicting "both the least known major figure in English Literature, and the strangest," a man who used his prose during the first half of his life "to convince the English and American public, permanently, that visual art was something that deeply mattered" (George J. Leonard).

The Sickiller Chronicles, Paul Hemphill (Macmillan). "Hemphill's central drama of a (North Carolina) man trying to raise his son, preserve his land, express his values in his music and ensure their continuity in succeeding generations remains as potent as good corn liquor. This novel has sweep, spunk, characters as richly Appalachian as a wine-colored fiddle and a rare, relaxed charm" (Frank Levering).

Good Intentions, Jane Adams (New American Library). "Anne Manning is failing as a parent even as she succeeds as a lawyer. Her 14-year-old son Billy is silent and sly, disruptive in school, headed for trouble . . . (and) Don, his father, is long gone, a voice on the telephone." The crisis, however, is eventually reconciled in this "traditional problem-solving novel with a traditional solution" (Susan Slocum Hinerfeld).

An Evening Performance: New & Selected Stories by George Garrett (Doubleday). "A Record as Long as Your Arm" is "a riotous account of faculty adultery gleefully told in the first person by the perpetrator" while "What's the Purpose of the Bayonet?" unites "five vignettes of Army life at the end of World War II." "All the stories are diverting; some edifying; many are deeply affecting and most manage to accomplish a bit of everything at once" (Elaine Kendall).

Best Sellers

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Placement on national list is noted in parentheses.

FICTION

1 **Lake Wobegon Days,** Keillor (1)
2 **Lucky,** Collins (2)
3 **The Two Mrs. Grenvilles,** Dunne (5)
4 **Lonesome Dove,** McMurtry (7)
5 **The Hunt for Red October,** Clancy (3)
6 **Skeleton Crew,** King (4)
7 **A Maggot,** Fowles (10)
8 **The Fourth Deadly Sin,** Sanders (6)
9 **The Accidental Tourist,** Tyler (8)
10 **The Immigrant's Daughter,** Fast (12)
11 **Depths of Glory: A Biographical Novel of Camille Pissarro,** Stone
12 **Jubal Sackett,** L'Amour (11)
13 **The Secrets of Harry Bright,** Wambaugh
14 **The Lover,** Duras
15 **Laguna Heat,** Parker

The National Best-Seller List also includes **If Tomorrow Comes,** Sheldon (9), **Less Than Zero,** Ellis (13), **Too Much Too Soon,** Briskin (14) and **The Red Fox,** Hyde (15).

GENERAL

1 **Dancing in the Light,** MacLaine (4)
2 **Elvis and Me,** Presley with Harmon (1)
3 **Yeager,** Yeager and Janos (2)
4 **Fit for Life,** Diamond and Diamond (6)
5 **Iacocca,** Iacocca with Novak (3)
6 **Smart Women, Foolish Choices,** Cowan and Kinder (10)
7 **A Passion for Excellence: The Leadership Difference,** Peters and Austin (5)
8 **Final Cut: Dreams and Disaster in the Making of "Heaven's Gate,"** Bach (13)
9 **Last Wish,** Rollin (7)
10 **Re—Inventing the Corporation,** Naisbitt and Aburdene
11 **Loving Each Other,** Buscaglia (15)
12 **Common Ground: A Turbulent Decade in the Lives of Three American Families,** Lukas
13 **Dr. Berger's Immune Power Diet,** Berger (8)
14 **The Amateurs: The Story of Four Young Men and Their Quest for an Olympic Gold Medal,** Halberstam
15 **Women Who Love Too Much: When You Keep Wishing and Hoping He'll Change,** Norwood (12)

The National Best-Seller List also includes **The Frugal Gourmet,** Smith (9), **Hammer of the Gods: The Led Zeppelin Saga,** Davis (11) and **Nothing Down,** Allen (14).

MASS-MARKET (RACK-SIZE) PAPERBACK

1 **The Fourth Protocol,** Forsyth (2)
2 **Thinner,** Bachman (1)
3 **Crescent City,** Plain (3)
4 **Ride a Pale Horse,** MacInnes (6)
5 **Passin' Through,** L'Amour (4)
6 **The Hunt for Red October,** Clancy
7 **Hey, Wait a Minute, (I Wrote a Book!),** Madden with Anderson (7)
8 **Superior Women,** Adams (5)
9 **Air Force One Is Haunted,** Serling
10 **Pieces of My Mind,** Rooney

The National Best-Seller List also includes **Lovesong,** Sherwood (8), **First Among Equals,** Archer (9) and **Happy Are the Meek,** Greeley (10).

TRADE (LARGE-FORMAT) PAPERBACK

1 **Valley of the Far Side,** Larson (1)
2 **The Road Less Traveled,** Peck (2)
3 **Growing Up Catholic: An Infinitely Funny Guide for the Faithful, the Fallen and Everyone In-Between,** Meara, Stone, Kelly and Davis (3)
4 **Penguin Dreams and Stranger Things,** Breathed
5 **The 1985 What Color Is Your Parachute?,** Bolles

The National Best-Seller List also includes **In Search of Excellence,** Peters and Waterman (4) and **The One Minute Manager,** Blanchard and Johnson (5).

The Southern California Paperback Best-Seller list is based on The Times' survey of regional bookstore chains and major paperback distributors. Placement on national list is based on surveys by Publishers Weekly and is noted in parentheses.

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